

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of verifying the authenticity of a signature on a collectible object comprising the following steps:
- a. connecting an originating computer via an online communication system to a central computer,
  - b. providing information from the originating computer to the central computer about the user and the signer and selecting the type of collectible surface on which the suspected signature is inscribed,
  - c. scanning the suspected signature at the originating computer and transmitting the scanned image to the central computer,
  - d. comparing the scanned image of the suspected signature with a selected set of stored signatures at the central computer to determine whether the suspected signature is authentic or not authentic, and
  - e. communicating to the originating computer whether the signature is authentic or not authentic.

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2. A method of verifying the authenticity of a signature on a collectible object according to Claim 1 further comprising the following steps for those signatures that are determined to be authentic:
  - f. printing a certificate of authenticity bearing a serialized hologram and printing a second identical hologram for those signatures that are authentic, and
  - g. attaching the second hologram to the collectible.
3. A method of verifying the authenticity of a signature on a collectible object comprising the following steps:
  - a. scanning a suspected signature that is inscribed on a collectible with a scanner and transferring the scanned image into an originating computer,
  - b. connecting the originating computer via an online communication system to a central computer,
  - c. providing information from the originating computer to the central computer about the user and the signer and selecting the type of collectible surface on which the suspected signature is inscribed,

- 12 d. transmitting the scanned image from the originating  
13 computer to the central computer,  
14 e. comparing the scanned image of the suspected signature  
15 with a selected set of stored reference signatures at the  
16 central computer to determine whether the suspected  
17 signature is authentic or not authentic, and  
18 f. communicating to the originating computer whether the  
19 suspected signature is authentic or not authentic.

1 4. A method of verifying the authenticity of a suspected signature on a  
2 collectible object according to Claim 3 further comprising the  
3 following steps for those suspected signatures that are determined  
4 to be authentic:

- 5 g. printing a certificate of authenticity bearing a serialized  
6 hologram and printing a second identical hologram for those  
7 suspected signatures that are authentic, and  
8 h. attaching the second hologram to the collectible.